FACT SHEET

Afghan eQuality Alliances

OVERVIEW

Wars and social upheaval of the last 30 years hurt Afghanistan's higher education system. Many faculty members died or fled the country during the conflicts. Capacity building of Afghanistan's system of higher education through exchanges with European and American universities came to an end. Upgrading the knowledge base, teaching methods and administrative structures across the university system of Afghanistan requires a significant effort to overcome this destruction. Afghan eQuality Alliance (AeQA) is one of several programs funded by USAID to increase the capacity of Afghanistan's higher education system.

FACTS

Five key strategies govern AeQA: 1. Use a holistic approach to build capacity in the higher education institutions; 2. Pilot new curricula, degree, and certificate programs and faculty development activities in Kabul-based universities that can be replicated in the regional and provincial universities; 3. Establish e-learning resource centers in the major universities in Kabul and in the regional universities; 4. Partner with the Ministry of Higher Education to develop common standards of excellence to guide the strategic planning for the 19 government-supported universities in Afghanistan; and 5. Build capacity through Global Development Alliances.

RESULTS

These strategies translated into a number of key outcomes:

- Co-sponsored a conference with Ministry of Higher Education (MoHE) for university chancellors and faculty members to discuss and draft the articles of the Afghanistan Higher Education Act;
- Sponsored eight university chancellors on study tours/workshops to American and European universities to expand their awareness of university management styles and operational strategies;
- Developed certificate and degree programs in core discipline areas using an e-learning environment;
- Developed digital libraries in two Kabul universities;
- Established e-learning centers in three Kabul universities, five regional universities, one provincial university, the Civil Service Institute, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Offered basic and advanced IT courses at the e-learning centers;
- Developed curricula to teach faculty to use 21st century technology in their instruction;
- Introduced to faculty and students to advanced e-learning courses;
- Supported 78 students'—from university faculties, government ministries, and the Civil Service Commission—participation in a master's in public policy and administration (MPPA) program; and
- Supported an internship program which enrolled 750 BA and BS graduates in Business, Economics, Computer Science and Pharmacy.

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